

November 19, 2015

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

With a two year budget agreement now in place, we understand that the Appropriations Committee is currently formulating legislation to fund the federal government for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2016. Unfortunately, nearly all of the appropriations bills approved this year have included deeply divisive policy riders that—if attached to an omnibus spending package—could lead to yet another unnecessary political impasse or even a damaging government shutdown. To avoid these harmful outcomes, we strongly urge you to bring forward legislation to fund the federal government that is free of poison-pill provisions.

Like many Americans, we remain hopeful that the passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act will mark an end to the deadlock and dysfunction which has characterized the Majority's leadership of the House. Unfortunately, attaching contentious policy riders to legislation to fund the government in FY 2016 would likely provoke another needless standoff on government spending. Instead of reviving the threat of a disastrous shutdown like the one the American people endured in 2013, we strongly urge you to act in the best traditions of the House and the best interests of the nation by bringing forward legislation free of divisive provisions to fund the federal government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,